# **Montana Department of Military Affairs Disaster & Emergency Services Division** State Emergency Coordination Center

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# Situation Report for August 26, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

# Wildfires of 2003

**Attention** \* - New information shown in today's report displayed in **Bold Italics** type.

#### I. **Background Information:**

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

#### II. **Current Montana Fire Situation: August 25, 2003 (2145)**

A. Large Fires Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5 National Preparedness Level = 5

## NORTHERN ROCKIES DAILY SUMMARY

Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:

- 1. Blackfoot Lake Complex Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) 1,427 acres, 0% contained, 19 miles E of Kalispell.
- 2. Ball Creek 210 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles E of Bigfork.
- Wedge Canyon Type 2 Incident Management Team (Paul) 44,441 acres, 62% contained, 42 miles N of Columbia Falls.
- Middle Fork Complex Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) -1,569 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.
- 5. Robert Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) 45,581 acres, 65% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.
- 6. Trapper Creek Complex 25,590 acres, 65% contained, 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell.
- 7. Crazy Horse Type 1 Incident Management Team (Vail) 10,169 acres,35% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.
- High Type 2 Incident Management Team (Weldon) 120 acres, 0% contained, 23 miles NE of Seeley Lake.
- Little Salmon Creek Complex Fire Use Management Team (Rath). This 31,658 acre lightning caused Wildland Fire Use complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. This complex is made up of 21 fires being managed for resource benefit.

### Central Montana Area Command (Rounsaville) is managing the following fires:

- 1. Lincoln Complex Type 1 Incident Management Team (Studebaker) –34,159 acres, 32% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.
- 2. Winslow Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kearney) 13,000 acres, 35% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview.
- East Complex Type 2 Incident Management Team (Gardner) 22,000 acres, 40% contained, 10 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park.
- 4. Cathedral Peak Type 1 Incident Management Team (Humphrey) 2,096 acres, 2% contained, 10 miles S of Nye.

- 5. Burnt Ridge Sheep Camp Complex Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hendricks) 1,806 acres, 58% contained, 12 miles SE of Neihart.
- 6. Rough Draw Complex Type 1 Incident Management Team (Oltrogge) -3,014 acres, 60% contained, 5 miles S of Livingston.

### Missoula Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:

- Cherry Creek Complex Type 2 Incident Management Team (Swope) –4,088 acres, 85% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls.
- Mineral/Primm Type 1 Incident Management Team (Bennett) 21,968 acres, 55% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula.
- Fish Creek Complex Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) -30,856 acres, 22% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.
- 4. Black Mountain 2 Type 1 Incident Management Team (Gelobter) –7,023 acres, 75% contained, 9 miles W of Missoula.
- 5. Cooney Ridge Type 2 Incident Management Team (Sandman) 22,310 acres, 50% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.
- Gold 1 Type 2 Incident Management Team (Philbin) 8,296 acres, 60% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis.

Rathbone – 250 acres, 75% contained, 17 miles N of West Yellowstone. Ordering a Type 2 crew.

Mollman – 158 acres, 30% contained, 5 miles SE of Ronan.

### Total personnel committed on Large Fires In NRCC Area: 14,163

#### В. Initial Attack Light initial attack – 23 new fires 17,826 acres

#### C. State Forecast For Montana

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

500 AM MDT TUE AUG 26 2003

WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

#### TODAY..MOSTLY SUNNY. HIGHS 85 TO 95.

TONIGHT. PARTLY CLOUDY, SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. BREEZY WEST WINDS, LOWS 45

WEDNESDAY..PARTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. BREEZY WEST WINDS. HIGHS 78 TO 88.

#### CENTRAL MONTANA

TODAY..MOSTLY SUNNY. HIGHS IN THE LOWER 80S TO MID 90S.

TONIGHT..PARTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS WITH GUSTY WINDS. LOWS IN

WEDNESDAY...PARTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND

THUNDERSTORMS. HIGHS IN THE MID 70S TO MID 80S.

#### SOUTHWEST MONTANA

TODAY..MOSTLY SUNNY. HIGHS IN THE MID 70S TO MID 80S. TONIGHT..PARTLY CLOUDY. CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS WITH GUSTY WINDS, LOWS IN THE LOWER 40S TO LOWER 50S. WEDNESDAY..PARTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. HIGHS IN THE UPPER 60S TO LOWER 80S.

### EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA

TODAY..MOSTLY SUNNY. HIGHS IN THE 90S. TONIGHT..PARTLY CLOUDY. A CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS SOUTHWEST. LOWS IN THE LOWER 50S NORTH TO THE UPPER 60S SOUTH. WEDNESDAY..PARTLY CLOUDY. A CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. WINDY EAST, HIGHS IN THE UPPER 70S NORTH TO THE UPPER 80S SOUTH.

#### III. **Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:**

The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:

Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Carbon County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03

# IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

## **State and National Guard Assistance:**

Current Montana National Guard Resources					
Montana Army Guard		EQUIPMENT	Montana Air Guard		
NG SOLDIERS	AIRCRAFT MODULES	ARMY & AIR GUARD EQUIPMENT	NG AIRMEN		
	3 UH-60S	52 HMMVs			
		3 HEMTTs (Fuelers )			
		41 ¼ TRAILER			
		8 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS			
		5 M1009 TRUCK			
		2 HEMTT (Wrecker)			
		14 Pick Up			
		2 VANS			
		1 7-TON TRUCK			
		1 25' FLATBED TRAILER			
•		1 M939 SERIES 5T CARGO			
38 Soldiers Assigned	3 Aircraft Modules	93 HVY Equipment	159 Airmen Assigned		

## **Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)**

• Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.

• Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:

Northwest Area Command Missoula Area Command Central Command

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

## V. FEMA Grants:

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

# VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:

For the latest fire restrictions:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm

For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates: http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp

For the latest closures and evacuations:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations road closures

For detailed information on specific fires or priorities:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed sit.htm

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac priorities.doc